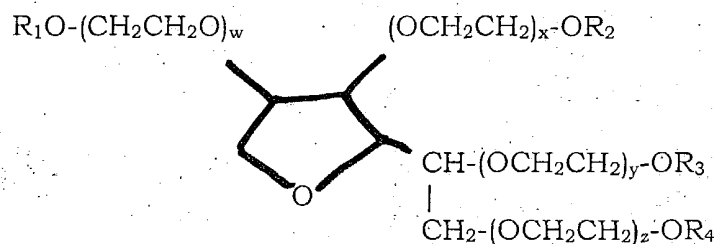


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A substantive coating for dental tape wherein said coating:  
contains a crystal control substance  
is saliva soluble  
is substantially crystal-free  
comprises from between about 20% and about 120% by weight of said  
tape has a flake value of less than about 20 and a release value of about 90 to  
100.

2. A substantive coating for dental tape according to Claim 1,  
wherein said crystal control substance is selected from the group consisting of  
long chain fatty alcohols or mixtures thereof and liquid surfactants having the  
standard formula:



wherein R<sub>1</sub> to R<sub>4</sub> represent H or aliphatic acyl groups having from 10 to 30  
carbon atoms.

3. A substantive coating for dental tape according to Claim 2,  
containing an active, chemotherapeutic ingredient selected from the group  
consisting of stannous fluoride, potassium nitrate, triclosan, chlorhexidine,  
cetylpyridinium chloride, domaphen bromide, metronidazole, doxycycline,  
aspirin and mixtures thereof.

4. A method for treating interproximal and subgingival sites in the oral cavity comprising flossing said sites with a coated monofilament dental tape having a substantive coating, wherein said coating:

contains a crystal control substance,

is saliva soluble,

is substantially crystal-free,

comprises from between about 20% and about 120% by weight of said tape, and has a flake value of less than about 20 and a release value of about 90 to 100.

5. A method for treating interproximal and subgingival sites in the oral cavity according to Claim 4, wherein said coating contains an active ingredient selected from the group consisting of stannous fluoride, potassium nitrate, triclosan, chlorhexidine, cetylpyridinium chloride, domaphen bromide, metronidazole, doxycycline, aspirin, other non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and mixtures thereof.

6. A method for treating interproximal and subgingival sites in the oral cavity according to Claim 4, for the purposes of mitigating, curing or otherwise affecting systemic diseases which are caused or exacerbated by poor oral health such as heart disease, diabetes, tobacco-use related disease, low-birth weight babies, immuno-compromized patients,

wherein said coating contains an active ingredient selected from the group consisting of stannous fluoride, potassium nitrate, triclosan, chlorhexidine, cetyl- pyridinium chloride, domaphen bromide, metronidazole, doxycycline, aspirin, other non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDS) and mixtures thereof.

7. A method for physically removing subgingival biofilms from interproximal and subgingival sites in the oral cavity comprising flossing said sites with a coated monofilament dental tape having a substantive coating, wherein said coating:

contains a crystal control substance

is saliva soluble

is substantially crystal-free

comprises from between about 20% and about 120% by weight of said

tape has a flake value of less than about 20 and a release value of about 90 to 100.

8. A method for manufacturing a coated monofilament dental tape containing a substantive coating that:

contains a crystal control substance

is saliva soluble

is substantially crystal-free

comprises from between about 20% and about 120% by weight of said

tape has a flake value of less than about 20 and a release value of about 90 to 100,

said method comprising the steps of:

- a. introducing said tape to a loading means containing said coating which is fluid and maintained substantially uniform, while being held at a temperature above the melting temperature of said coating;
- b. removing excess coating from said tape by doctoring or calendering said excess coating off said coated tape after coating, and
- c. cooling said coated tape and winding the same onto master spools prior to bobbin winding.

9. A substantive coating for dental tape according to Claim 2, wherein the dental tape is a monofilament tape selected from the group consisting of PTFE, non-PTFE, elastomeric, polycomponent and other polymer monofilament flosses and mixtures thereof.